

National Archives for Black Women's History Relocation

January 2014

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why are the archives moving?

A: The National Park Service is moving the archives to ensure their safety and availability. The archives are currently housed in a facility – the Carriage House at Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site – that does not provide adequate protection for the resources. The archives are moving to one of the premier archival storage facilities in the country – the National Park Service's Museum Resource Center in Landover, Maryland.

Q: When will the relocation take place?

A: The relocation is scheduled for February 18 – March 9, 2014 (approximately 3 weeks), during which time the archives will be closed to researchers.

Q: When will the archives be accessible again to researchers?

A: Access to the archives will resume on March 10, 2014.

Q: How will researchers be able to access the archives at the Museum Resource Center?

A: Researchers will be able to access the archives in a dedicated area at the Museum Resource Center in Landover, Maryland. This facility, unlike the current archive, is ADA-compliant. The archivist will schedule research appointments for Monday through Friday; from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Feel free to call (301) 832-3967 or email: NABWH_Archivist@nps.gov for an appointment.

Q: Will the archives return to the current facility?

A: The National Park Service is completing assessments to determine whether the Carriage House is a proper structure to protect the archives, what modifications/upgrades would be required, and whether it is financially and structurally feasible.

Q: What will happen to the Carriage House?

A: The National Park Service will prepare a Historic Structures Assessment Report to determine the best use for this historic structure. Specifically as it relates to the building's use as an archive, this report will advise whether the Carriage House is a proper structure for this function, what modifications/upgrades would be required, and whether it is financially and structurally feasible.

Q: Why was the Museum Resource Center chosen for the archives?

A: The Museum Resource Center is one of the premier archival storage facilities in the country. The center has state-of-the-art monitoring equipment to ensure proper and consistent conditions exist to preserve irreplaceable artifacts and curatorial objects significant to the history of the United States. The Museum Resource Center currently houses both archival and curatorial collections for Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site, Ellis Island, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, Ford's Theatre National Historic Site, Arlington House, as well as a number of other national parks.

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Q: Where is the Museum Resource Center?

A: The Museum Resource Center is located at 3300 Hubbard Road, Landover, Maryland 20785, where parking is free. The center is convenient to public transportation by taking the Metro towards New Carrollton. You will get off at the Landover Metro Station and take the 27 Bus Lines to the intersections of Dodge Park Road and Hubbard Road. For more information please call (301) 832-3967.

Q: Will the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House remain open to the public?

A: Yes, during the archive relocation, operations at the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House will not change. The house will remain open to the public interpreting the legacy of Mary McLeod Bethune, the National Council of Negro Women, and other associated Civil Rights organizations and leaders, including notable figures such as Dr. Dorothy Height. The site is open to the public 7-days each week between the hours of 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Q: Where do I get more information?

A: You can go to the following website www.nps.gov/mamc or contact (202) 673-2402. We also invite you to "Like" our Facebook page which is www.facebook.com/nps.mamc to follow this project, news, and events from Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site.